



Statewide Service-Learning Retreat

Thursday, April 29 (6 p.m.) – Saturday, May 1 (12 p.m.), 2010

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction is pleased to announce that **Shelley Billig, Vice President of RMC Research**, will lead a high-quality professional development experience for school district teams on April 29-May 1, 2010 at the Heidelberg House in Green Lake. Interested districts are asked to identify a team of teachers and administrators that will plan for advancing service-learning as a key district initiative.

Register your district team today at:

https://www.regonline.com/statewide_service_learning_retreat

Why Should We Attend?

Instructional approaches that effectively address 21st century skills are far more powerful than the “stand and deliver” modes of the past. One such promising approach is service-learning, an instructional approach that engages students in addressing community issues as a way of deepening their academic skill development.

Service-learning is unique in that it helps students acquire knowledge and skills in a hands-on way (shown to be a critical component for many learners) but also in a way that engages them socially and emotionally, by showing them that they can make a difference. They connect to the community and to their classmates in ways that are far more powerful than simple cooperative learning. By applying knowledge and skills to solve real community issues, students learn the value of their schooling, the ways they can contribute to the world, and how to work with others to meet needs.

Research has consistently demonstrated that high quality service-learning leads to increased academic, civic, and social-emotional outcomes. Bring a team to this training to learn how your district can achieve sustainable high quality practice through district leadership and support that nurtures continuous improvement.

Training Goals

Participants will:

1. Use the National K-12 Service-Learning Standards for Quality Practice to deepen practice in high quality service-learning to increase academic achievement and engagement, and reduce dropout rates.
2. Learn how to collect, analyze, and use data to drive continuous improvement.
3. Create a plan to integrate service-learning throughout the district as part of the district's school improvement efforts.
4. Receive the 2010-2011 Request for Proposal and begin to develop a grant proposal for up to \$20,000 in upcoming Learn and Serve America competitive grants.
5. Become part of a network of districts which use and support service-learning.



Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Tony Evers, State Superintendent

<http://www.dpi.wi.gov>

Requirements of the District

Each district participating in the training should commit a team to provide service-learning experiences for students by infusing service-learning and civic education into classroom instruction. Each team must have:

- ✓ At least two educators, representing elementary, middle, and high school levels (**required**).
- ✓ At least one administrator with the capacity to carry out the district's commitment to service-learning (**required**).
- ✓ Other teachers or school staff interested in offering program support (*recommended*).
- ✓ A school board member or community partner who will assist with service-learning efforts (*recommended*).
- ✓ Active administrative support to ensure the success and continuation of the program.

Participating districts will participate in the service-learning training on **Thursday, April 23 (6 p.m.) through Saturday, April 25 (12 p.m.)** at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake. Cost for the training is \$100 per team (up to three participants). Additional participants are \$150 per person. Costs include the training, materials, implementation guide, meals, and hotel. Districts are expected to pay mileage and staff time away from the district.

Benefits to the District

- High quality professional development experiences based on best practices and brain-based learning strategies through an initial training, ongoing support and follow-up workshops.
- Instructional and program support from DPI staff to help implement and institutionalize service-learning. This assistance takes a variety of forms: site visits, email and phone support, meetings held locally, and statewide gatherings.
- Service-learning implementation guide and program resources.
- Meaningful involvement in instructional methodology that has been demonstrated to increase positive student behaviors and academic skills.
- Pending funding and approval of a Learn and Serve grant proposal, each selected district will receive up to \$20,000 in grant funding for service-learning professional development, implementation, and institutionalization costs.

2010-2011 Learn and Serve Grant Requirements (for funded districts)

- ✓ Committing to at least one set of schools that will provide service-learning experiences for students K-12 by using service-learning as a methodology in STEM instruction.
- ✓ Board level policy (either adopted or in development) indicating the district's commitment to service-learning and civic education.
- ✓ Active administrative support in ensuring the success and continuation of the program.
- ✓ Participation in the program evaluation to be conducted by RMC Research Corporation. The evaluation will offer school districts data to support and enhance their work.
- ✓ Ongoing involvement in the Wisconsin Service-Learning Network. Educators will help create new resources for other Wisconsin educators, offer feedback and advice based on their own experience with service-learning, and establish active dialog for new and seasoned veterans alike so that each may learn from the other's expertise. Educators will be encouraged to include this learning process as part of their professional development plan, mandated by Wisconsin PI 34. Curriculum development and staff release time may be funded through grant monies.

Assurances

By registering a team to attend this training, the school district agrees that:

- a. The district will support teachers involved in implementing and sustaining service-learning.
- b. The district will provide staff release time to become trained in high quality service-learning practice beginning on **Thursday, April 29 (6 p.m.) - Saturday, May 1 (12 p.m.)** at the Heidel House Resort in Green Lake. All members of the team must stay for the entire training. **Cancellations after April 10 or failure to stay for the entire training will result in the district being billed \$200 per person to recover costs incurred.**
- c. The district will provide logistical accommodations to facilitate success of the program, such as space and scheduling needs.
- d. Ongoing communication with the Department of Public Instruction will be maintained in the assessment of this program.

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Please direct questions to
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